



# Opportunity Partnership

## WORKING FOR JOBS TODAY!

### What is the MI Opportunity Partnership?

The MI Opportunity Partnership was developed by Governor Jennifer M. Granholm to help employers find skilled workers by improving programs and services that match workers with job providers. Today, that Partnership is a collaboration of:

- The State of Michigan
- Community colleges and universities
- Associations
- Michigan Works! Agencies
- Businesses
- Organized labor
- Michigan Regional Skills Alliances

### How is the MI Opportunity Partnership different?

One of the most exciting aspects of this partnership is the unprecedented outreach to Michigan employers.

This initiative has helped strengthen our partnership in helping employers and providing assistance, training, and job placements for workers. Today we work together as a team to better serve our customers — the workers and business owners of Michigan.

MI Opportunity Partnership is not only about matching workers with employers but providing accelerated training to make sure we have a 21st Century workforce.

### Working for Jobs Today! Employer Job Pledge Drive

- A key component of the MI Opportunity Partnership is the Working for Jobs Today! employer pledge drive. The Governor announced that 30,000 Michigan residents were placed into jobs in the first year — ahead of the May deadline.
- We will be placing 40,000 workers into jobs in year two of this successful initiative.
- Employers pledge their job openings. Pledges are responded to promptly by local Michigan Works! agencies that will help find the skilled individuals employers need. There is no cost to employers and it is an easy way for employers to find the workers they need.
- **Employers can pledge their job openings by calling 1-800-285-WORKS, the local Michigan Works! agency, or by going online at [www.michigan.gov/jobstoday](http://www.michigan.gov/jobstoday).**

The Working For Jobs Today! pledge drive is just one part of the MI Opportunity Partnership program, which has helped **more than 100,000 workers** connect with training and jobs in the past year.

### Accelerated Job Training

Through the MI Opportunity Partnership, the Granholm Administration has invested \$17 million in Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital funds to help community colleges and universities provide accelerated training for health care workers such as RNs, LPNs, allied health professionals, and clinical nurse faculty. Training through the Accelerated Health Care Career Initiative will expand the state's ability to prepare Michigan citizens for the vital health care jobs of today and tomorrow.

In addition, the Michigan Regional Skills Alliances are providing accelerated training to individuals in welding, construction trades, and basic health care occupations.

Thousands of jobs across Michigan are going unfilled even as Michigan experiences unprecedented economic transformation in the manufacturing sector. Today, employers are struggling to fill thousands of job vacancies that exist particularly in high growth sectors such as health care.

All employers need to know they can find highly skilled and qualified workers that will help their businesses grow and prosper here in Michigan.

There are also more than 32,000 people enrolled in Michigan's many workforce system job training programs.

### **How is the partnership funded?**

The Granholm Administration blends available federal, state and local dollars in a streamlined, outcomes-based initiative. Current resources are used more efficiently and creatively to move forward and strengthen the economy.

### **How does this benefit employers?**

Employers can list job openings by calling toll-free, 1-800-285-WORKS (9675). Local Michigan Works! Service Center Business Representatives will assist employers with job placement of individuals who have appropriate skills and qualifications that will benefit the company and the bottom line.

#### **Michigan Works! Benefits Employers**

- Approximately 100 Michigan Works! Service Centers located throughout the state
- Service excellence; proven track record in solid job placement services
- One-stop access to a wide range of workforce development services
- Services provided at no charge
- Interview facilities at service centers
- Information on business start-up, retention, and expansion services
- Information on customized training programs
- Assistance connecting with the Michigan Talent Bank (MTB)
- Services provided to more than three million employers and job seekers in 2005

### **Michigan Talent Bank**

For employers seeking qualified job applicants, the Michigan Talent Bank has added new features making it even easier for employers to post job openings and conduct searches of more than 600,000 resumes. The Michigan Talent Bank has a high satisfaction rate among users, with 94 percent of businesses and 88 percent of job seekers responding as satisfied, according to a January 2006 survey. Michigan Works! staff and the MTB will help employers make the right match by ensuring they get candidates with the skills and attitudes to meet their business needs.

### **How does this benefit workers?**

Workers can also call 1-800-285-WORKS to reach their the local Michigan Works! agency, or go to [www.michworks.org](http://www.michworks.org) to post their resume on the Michigan Talent Bank.

Q & A